



Sustainable Food Group Sustainability Standard™ Checklist

*Used in conjunction with
Sustainable Food Group
Sustainability Standard v1.4*

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Section	Question Number	Question	Total Points	Available Answers	Notes
Environmental Certifications	1.01.01	Is production currently certified under any other program(s) addressing elements of sustainable agriculture and requiring an on-site audit? (Informational only, answer will not affect score.)	0	Multiple choice	
Minimum Requirements	1.02.01	Is there a written policy statement prohibiting the application of both untreated and treated biosolids to production sites for at least one year prior to production?	10	Y/N	
Minimum Requirements	1.02.02	Is there a policy that any genetically modified (GM) ingredients will be disclosed to the buyer?	10	Y/N	
Minimum Requirements	1.02.03	Is there a policy that legal requirements be met for all pesticide and nutrient applications and for employment, and employee health and safety?	10	Y/N	

Minimum Requirements	1.02.04	Are there complete and legible pesticide application records for the current season that include location, date, time, material applied, rate, applicator name, application method, wind speed and direction, air temperature and target pest?	10	Y/N	
Minimum Requirements	1.02.05	Are there complete and legible nutrient application records for the current season that include date, time, material applied, rate, applicator name and application method?	10	Y/N	
Minimum Requirements For Group certifications only	1.02.06	Does the Group maintain an Internal Management System (IMS) to ensure facility and producer group member compliance with the Sustainability Standard certification criteria? Does the IMS meet all minimum requirements identified in the IMS Checklist?	0	Y/N	

Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1.03.01	Are all ecologically sensitive areas within and adjacent to field production, packing and processing sites identified?	20	Y/N	
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1.03.02	Are environmentally sensitive areas avoided when putting new land into production or expanding processing facilities?	20	Y/N/NA	
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1.03.03	Are adequate protections in place to avoid impairment of sensitive areas at field production and/or processing plant sites?	20	Y/N	
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1.03.04	Are all ecologically sensitive areas within and adjacent to field production, packing and processing sites visually monitored at least annually?	20	Y/N	
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1.03.05	Are quantitative data collected measuring the quality of sensitive areas at field production and/or processing plant sites?	10	Y/N	

Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1.03.5.a	Do quantitative data measuring the quality of sensitive areas at field production and/or processing plant sites show improvement over time?	10	Y/N	
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1.03.06	Does organization create habitat and forage sources for pollinators?	40	Y/N	
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	1.03.07	Does the operation employ measures to reduce ecological impacts of any managed pollinators used in production?	5	Y/N/NA	
Environmental Emergency Management	1.04.01	Do all operations in the scope of the application have emergency contact information and staff procedures readily available in the event of possible emergencies?	20	Y/N	
Environmental Emergency Management	1.04.02	Do all operations in the scope of the application have written emergency management plans that are readily accessible if an emergency occurs?	30	Y/N	

Fertilizer and Pesticide Drift	1.05.01	Is pesticide and nutrient application equipment appropriate for the crop and materials in use?	30	Y/N/NA	
Fertilizer and Pesticide Drift	1.05.02	Are pesticide and nutrient application equipment calibrated at least annually, or more frequently if recommended by the manufacturer?	30	Y/N/NA	
Fertilizer and Pesticide Drift	1.05.03	Are comprehensive drift management plans written and readily accessible?	40	Y/N/NA	
Air Quality	1.06.01	Are measures in place to protect air quality?	30	Y/N	
Soil Erosion	1.07.01	Are visibly eroded areas not present, including around production, packing and processing locations?	30	Y/N	
Soil Erosion	1.07.02	Are protective measures in place at all locations where the threat of soil erosion exists from wind or water?	30	Y/N	
Soil Health	1.08.01	Does organization monitor and record basic soil health indicators?	30	Y/N/NA	

Soil Health	1.08.02	Does organization monitor and record advanced soil health indicators?	10	Y/N/NA	
Soil Health	1.08.03	Does organization implement adequate protective/corrective measures for maintaining or improving soil health indicators?	40	Y/N/NA	
Soil Health	1.08.04	Has organization set at least two goals for maintaining or improving soil health indicators and collected quantitative data measuring changes in soil health since the previous audit (or within the previous two years for new applicants)?	10	Y/N/NA	
Soil Health	1.08.04.a	Has organization met at least two quantitative goals for improvement in soil health indicators since the previous audit (or within the previous two years for new applicants)?	10	Y/N/NA	

Waste Disposal	1.09.01	Does the organization prohibit burning trash or vegetation?	20	Y/N	
Advisory Team	1.10.01	Does the organization maintain an interdisciplinary sustainability advisory team?	50	Y/N	
Advisory Team	1.10.02	Does the advisory team meet at least annually to review performance on sustainability measures, and identify and plan improvements ?	50	Y/N/NA	
Water Conservation	1.11.01	Does the organization implement measures to prevent contamination of water?	20	Y/N	

Water Conservation	1.11.02	Does the organization make irrigation decisions based on documented crop need(s)?	10	Y/N/NA	
Water Conservation	1.11.03	Does the organization implement measures to improve irrigation water use efficiency?	20	Y/N/NA	
Water Conservation	1.11.3.a	Has the organization implemented new measures to improve irrigation water use efficiency in the past two years?	10	Y/N/NA	
Water Conservation	1.11.04	Does the organization measure and report irrigation use efficiency, i.e., irrigation water use per unit of production?	10	Y/N/NA	
Water Conservation	1.11.05	Does the organization try to improve local and/or regional watersheds?	5	Y/N	
Water Conservation	1.11.06	Does the organization have measures in place to improve processing water use efficiency?	10	Y/N/NA	

Water Conservation	1.11.6.a	Has the organization implemented new measures to improve processing water use efficiency in the past two years?	10	Y/N/NA	
Water Conservation	1.11.07	Does the organization measure and report processing water use efficiency, i.e., processing and/or packing plant water use per unit of production?	10	Y/N/NA	
Energy Conservation	1.12.01	Does organization implement measures to reduce field production energy use?	20	Y/N	
Energy Conservation	1.12.02	Does organization implement measures to reduce use of non-renewable energy for field production?	20	Y/N	
Energy Conservation	1.12.03	Does organization measure and document energy use efficiency and/or greenhouse gas production including electricity use, fuel use and embedded energy associated with the production of nutrients and pesticides applied?	5	Y/N	

Energy Conservation	1.12.04	Does organization implement measures to reduce processing energy use?	20	Y/N/NA	
Energy Conservation	1.12.05	Does organization implement measures to reduce use of non-renewable energy for packing and/or processing?	20	Y/N/NA	
Energy Conservation	1.12.06	Does organization measure and document efficiency of energy used for processing, i.e., energy use per unit of production?	5	Y/N/NA	
Natural Resource Reuse	1.13.01	Does organization reuse resources onsite?	20	Y/N/NA	
Natural Resource Reuse	1.13.02	Does organization measure and document performance, e.g. types/amounts of on-site reuse of renewables?	5	Y/N/NA	
Materials Recycling	1.14.01	Does organization recycle materials?	20	Y/N/NA	

Materials Recycling	1.14.02	Does organization measure and record performance, e.g., types/amounts recycled?	5	Y/N/NA	
Materials Recycling	1.14.03	Does organization purchase products with recycled content?	10	Y/N/NA	
Work Environment	1.15.01	Does organization maintain fair and open communications and mutual agreements with employees and trade partners?	20	Y/N/NA	
Work Environment	1.15.02	Does organization implement responsible practices for pesticide applicators?	20	Y/N/NA	
Work Environment	1.15.03	Does organization provide opportunities for employee advancement?	20	Y/N/NA	
Work Environment	1.15.03.a	Does organization measure and record performance, e.g., employee participation rates, dollar investment, etc.?	5	Y/N/NA	

Work Environment	1.15.04	Does organization provide rewards/incentives for innovation and improvement?	20	Y/N/NA	
Work Environment	1.15.04.a	Does organization measure and report performance in rewards and incentives?	5	Y/N/NA	
Work Environment	1.15.05	Does organization implement additional socially responsible practices?	20	Y/N/NA	
Work Environment	1.15.05.a	Does organization measure and report performance in additional social responsibility practices?	5	Y/N/NA	
Work Environment	1.15.06	Does organization track worker safety, i.e., incident rates?	20	Y/N/NA	
Sustainability and Stewardship	1.16.01	Does organization have a written sustainability plan addressing goals for company operations?	50	Y/N	
Sustainability and Stewardship	1.16.02	Does organization communicate improvement toward sustainability goals to buyers, consumers, the public and/or NGOs?	30	Y/N	

Sustainability and Stewardship	1.16.03	Has on-site research been conducted or supported financially or otherwise in the past year?	25	Y/N	
Sustainability and Stewardship	1.16.04	Are science-based procedures used for on-site research?	25	Y/N	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.01	Does organization access IPM information resources?	100	Y/N	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.02	Does organization identify key pests (those which usually require action to prevent economic losses) and understand key pest biology?	100	Y/N	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.03	Does organization identify effective non-chemical and chemical strategies to prevent losses by each key pest?	100	Y/N	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.04	Does organization implement effective scouting, sampling and monitoring techniques for all key pests for which these techniques are available?	100	Y/N	

Crop-specific Standards	1.17.05	Does organization use science-based action thresholds to determine if and when to take action for each key pest for which thresholds are available?	100	Y/N	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.06	Are pesticide applications tied to a documented need?	40	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.07	Is total pesticide use, i.e., pounds of active ingredient, measured and recorded?	20	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.08	Is pesticide use tracked and reduced over time by transitioning to non-chemical strategies?	40	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.09	Is pesticide risk tracked and reduced over time?	40	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.10	Does organization identify pesticide modes of action, and specific pesticide uses most at risk for pest resistance?	40	Y/N/NA	

Crop-specific Standards	1.17.11	In addition to reducing reliance on pesticides through scouting, monitoring, thresholds and/or spot treatments, are other strategies used to delay resistance?	50	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.12	Does organization formally assess performance of pesticides most at risk of resistance to detect and report problems early?	10	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.13	Does organization rank pesticides used by potential for residue post-harvest, and reduce/restrict use of those with greatest residue potential?	30	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.14	Does organization rank pesticides used by acute toxicity to mammals, and reduce/restrict use of those with greatest risk?	20	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.15	Does organization rank pesticides used by toxicity to beneficials, including pollinators, and reduce/restrict use of those with greatest risk?	20	Y/N/NA	

Crop-specific Standards	1.17.16	Does organization rank pesticides used by chronic toxicity to mammals, and reduce/restrict use of those with greatest risk?	20	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.17	Does organization rank pesticides used by additional ecotoxicity measures, and reduce/restrict use of those with greatest risk?	20	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.18	Organization protects bees and other pollinators from exposure to pesticides toxic to bees.	40	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.19	Do nutrient application rates reflect available nutrients and projected crop need, i.e. by nutrient management planning?	40	Y/N	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.20	Is nutrient use efficiency, i.e., nutrient use per unit of production, measured and recorded?	15	Y/N	

Crop-specific Standards	1.17.21	Is nutrient use efficiency tracked and improved over time?	40	Y/N	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.22	Does organization staff or contracted advisors responsible for pest management meet minimum continuing education requirements for pesticide applicator licensing/certification?	20	Y/N	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.23	Have organization staff involved in implementing sustainable agriculture practices participated in sustainable agriculture-related training events in the past year exceeding minimum legal requirements?	40	Y/N	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.23.a	Were at least three different sustainable agriculture topics covered in training events that organization staff participated in within the last year?	20	Y/N/NA	

Crop-specific Standards	1.17.24	Are training records written and include staff attending, name of session, topics addressed and date?	10	Y/N/NA	
Crop-specific Standards	1.17.25	Has organization provided, hosted or supported one or more events in the past two years that include training in one or more aspects of sustainable agriculture?	10	Y/N	
Informational	1.18.01	Have any of the operations in the scope of the application been cited for violations of any legal requirements since the previous audit or within the last three years if they are a new applicant? (Informational only, answer will not affect score.)	0	Y/N	
Informational	1.18.02	Have any operations in the scope of the application experienced an environmental emergency since the previous audit, or within the past three years for new applicants? (Informational only, answer will not affect score.)	0	Y/N	

Informational	1.18.03	Have any operations in the scope of the application been cited for off-target application of fertilizers or pesticides since the previous audit, or within the last three years for new applicants? (Informational only, answer will not affect score.)	0	Y/N	
Informational	1.18.04	Are any significant disputes with trade partners open or unresolved? (Informational only, answer will not affect score.)	0	Y/N	